

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIE-00 ISO-00
AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 SSO-00 INRE-00 PA-01
/067 W
----- 041890/11

O P 170949Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4141
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO, IS
SUBJECT: UNESCO: ISRAELI VIEWS ON RESULTS OF NAIROBI

REFS: (A) PARIS 37274, (B) STATE 305326

1. BY COINCIDENCE, WE HAD DISCUSSED YESTERDAY THE NAIROBI GENERAL CONFERENCE AND ISRAEL'S VIEWS OF ITS RESULTS WITH NATHAN BAR-YACOV, DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION OF THE MFA. HE WAS THE CHIEF ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVE AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, AND HIS VIEWS MAY WELL REFLECT HIS PERSONAL REACTION TO RECENTLY HAVING DEALT AT FIRST HAND WITH THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN REFTELS.

2. BAR-YACOV SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW A DEAL HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN MADE BETWEEN THE ARABS AND THE AFRICANS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. THE TERMS OF THIS DEAL WERE THAT THE ARABS WOULD ACCEPT ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP AND WOULD NOT INSIST ON ZIONISM/RACISM RESOLUTIONS. IN RETURN THE ARABS WOULD RECEIVE SUPPORT FOR CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTIONS ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND ON JERUSALEM. AS EVIDENCE THAT SUCH A DEAL HAD BEEN MADE,

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MAR-YACOV CITED AMBASSADOR BOSSIER-PALUN'S INABILITY TO DEVIATE FROM THE WORDING OF THE TWO RESOLUTIONS DURING COMMITTEE AND PLENARY DISCUSSIONS. (BAR-YACOV CHARACTERIZED BOSSIER-PALUN AS THE MOST IMPORTANT REPRESENTATIVE IN THE AFRICAN AND THIRD WORLD BLOC AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE). HE FELT THAT DIRECTOR-GENERAL M'BOW HAD BEEN A PARTY TO THIS

DEAL AND THAT ONE OF THE PRIMARY REASONS SUCH A DEAL HAD BEEN MADE WAS TO ENHANCE HIS (M'BOW'S) PRESTIGE BY FACILITATING THE SMOOTH OPERATIONS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

3. BAR-YAACOV SAID THE GOI HAD NOT YET MADE A DECISION REGARDING A VISIT TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPRESENTATIVES. THAT DECISION WILL BE MADE AFTER THE RECEIPT OF ANY FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS FROM M'BOW. THE GOI VIEW REMAINS THAT IT HAD MADE A GENUINE EFFORT TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE LAST SEPTEMBER AND, FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION OF THE CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTIONS AT THE GC, FEELS DISINCLINED TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVE. BAR-YAACOV RECALLED THAT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL HAD DONE NOTHING REGARDING THE TERRITORIES AFTER THE 1974 GC UNTIL AUGUST 1976, AND THEN HAD EXPECTED ISRAEL TO RESPOND IMMEDIATELY. HE NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN DELEGATES AT NAIROBI HAD EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE ISRAELIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE FORTHCOMING IN THEIR RESPONSE TO M'BOW, BUT HE REVIEWED THE REASONS WHY ISRAEL HAD BEEN UNABLE TO MEET M'BOW'S REQUEST FOR A VISIT BY HIS REPRESENTATIVES IN OCTOBER (RAMADAN, JEWISH HIGH HOLY DAYS, RESUMPTION OF THE SCHOOL YEAR IN THE TERRITORIES, THE POSSIBILITY OF DEMONSTRATIONS) AND SAID THAT THESE WERE NOT RATIONALIZATIONS BUT WERE REAL PROBLEMS FOR ISRAEL.

4. BAR-YAACOV NOTED THAT THE JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS WERE COMING TO AN END BUT SAID THIS WAS AN ACADEMIC AND NOT A GOVERNMENT DECISION. HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT THE GOI WAS CONTEMPLATING ANY INITIATIVE BASED ON THE CESSATION OF EXCAVATIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV08469
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760464-0539
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761231/aaaabays.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 37274, 76 STATE 305326
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by hartledg>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO: ISRAELI VIEWS ON RESULTS OF NAIROBI
TAGS: PORG, OCON, IS, UNESCO, (BAR-YACOV, NATHAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006